

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CURACA 00285 01 OF 02 192324Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-03 ONY-00 /018 W
-----087563 192332Z /61

R 191410Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL CURACAO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3848

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CURACAO 0285/1

FOR S/IG AND ARA ONLY

E.O. 11652: DS
TAGS: ADM, NA
SUBJECT: INSPECTORS REPORT -- POST RESPONSE

REF: (A) STATE 078018, (B) 77 CURACAO 0767

FOLLOWING ARE POST VIEWS REQUESTED BY STATE 078018:

1. RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.7:

A. THAT US NATIONAL INTEREST REQUIRES MAINTENANCE OF POST AT CURACAO PROBABLY CANNOT BE DEMONSTRATED BY PROCESS OF INDUCTIVE REASONING. AS INDICATED AT PAGE 2 OF INSPECTION MEMORANDUM NO. 2.7, INSPECTORS APPROACHED QUESTION IN THAT MANNER AND ARRIVED AT POST-CLOSURE RECOMMENDATION. USING SAME PROCESS OF REASONING, FEW WOULD ARGUE WITH THEIR CONCLUSION. YET EVEN BY SUCH REASONING, GIVEN THE SIZE AND NATURE OF THE AMERICAN PRESENCE HERE, AS GOOD A CASE CAN PROBABLY BE MADE FOR ONE POST IN NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AS, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR SIX POSTS IN FRANCE OR THREE IN HOLLAND (ONLY ONE IN ENGLAND) OR FOR ANY POST IN MANY OTHER PLACES. WITHOUT ANY SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE CASES FOR THEM, I WONDER, FOR EXAMPLE, ABOUT BELIZE, CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, FIJI, GABON, THE GAMBIA, GUINEA-BISSAU, LESOTHO, MARTINIQUE, MALAWI, MALTA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, SEYCHELLES, AND EVEN SURINAM.

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PAGE 02 CURACA 00285 01 OF 02 192324Z

2. JUSTIFICATION FOR POST AT CURACAO MUST, I BELIEVE BE FOUND BY APPLYING DEDUCTIVE REASONING TO GENERAL USG POLICY ON REPRESENTATION ABROAD. IN LAW, HOLLAND AND NETHERLANDS ANTILLES ARE EQUAL MEMBERS IN KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS. IT IS TRUE THAT NETHERLANDS ANTILLES' FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE ARE CONDUCTED FROM THE HAGUE. BUT IN ALL OTHER RESPECTS THESE ISLANDS

ARE A SEPARATE COUNTRY. DEPARTMENT ALREADY RECOGNIZES THIS FACT BY ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR US INTEREST IN THESE ISLANDS TO ARA WHILE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOLLAND IS IN EUR. IF UNDER THAT POLICY ON REPRESENTATION THERE SHOULD BE REPRESENTATION IN POSTS MENTIONED ABOVE, OR ANY OF THEM, THERE SHOULD ALSO BE, PRECISELY BECAUSE OF FACTORS MENTIONED BY INSPECTORS, US REPRESENTATION HERE.

C. BUT WHETHER OR NOT IT IS DESIRABLE TO CLOSE CURACAO NOW ON BASIS OF CONSIDERATIONS MENTIONED BY INSPECTORS, WE SHOULD NOT DECIDE TO DO SO UNTIL AFTER WE HAVE MADE DECISIONS ON EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF USG REPRESENTATION HERE AFTER INDEPENDENCE. CONSULATE GENERAL NOW OCCUPIES A SUPERB SITE. THIS SITE, TOGETHER WITH LOT ADJOINING (SEE RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.7-11), WOULD PROVIDE USG WITH SUFFICIENT LAND FOR A MISSION ON CHOICEST SITE IN TOWN. LAND VALUES HERE ARE SKY ROCKETING. WHENEVER COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE COMES, IF THE US DECIDES THEN TO HAVE A RESIDENT REPRESENTATION HERE, TO BUY BACK THE PRESENT SITE OR A COMPARABLE ONE WOULD PROBABLY COST AS MUCH OR MORE THAN THE INTERSTITIAL COSTS OF MAINTAINING THE POST AT PRESENT COMPLEMENT.

D. IF, HOWEVER, IT IS DECIDED TO CLOSE POST, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE ALLOW OURSELVES AT LEAST 90 DAYS. GIVEN THE TIME IT TAKES TO GET ANYTHING DONE HERE, I JUDGE THAT WE WILL NEED AT LEAST 60 DAYS AFTER THE TERMINATION OF SERVICES TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CURACA 00285 01 OF 02 192324Z

PUBLIC. ON THAT SCORE, SINCE NO EMERGENCY IS INVOLVED, WE SHOULD GIVE, AT A MINIMUM, 30 DAYS NOTICE. FINALLY, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT DECORUM VIS-A-VIS THE DUTCH AND NETHERLANDS ANTILLES GOVERNMENTS WOULD ALSO REQUIRE AT LEAST 60 OR 90 DAYS, PREFERABLY LATTER.

E. AGAIN, IF POST WERE TO BE CLOSED, I WOULD RECOMMEND TRANSFERRING ITS ABC ISLANDS WORK TO CARACAS AND ITS WINDWARD ISLANDS WORK TO MARTINIQUE, ASSUMING IT SURVIVES. (ONE SPECIFIC WORK MATTER MAY GIVE REAL TROUBLE TO NETHERLANDS ANTILLES' ECONOMY. OFF SHORE COMPANIES CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALITY TO THAT ECONOMY. CONGEN'S NOTARIALS FUNCTIONS, PARTICULARLY THEIR PERFORMANCE ON VERY SHORT NOTICE, OFTEN A MATTER OF HOURS, ARE VITAL TO OPERATIONS OF THOSE COMPANIES AND THUS TO NA ECONOMY.)

2. RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.7-2. POSITION OF ECONOMIC/ COMMERCIAL OFFICER (NO. 20-012) HAS ALREADY BEEN ABOLISHED.

3. RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.7-3. POSITION OF FSL ECONOMIC/ COMMERCIAL POSITION (NO. 129-040) HAS ALREADY BEEN ABOLISHED. REMAINING COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT FUNCTIONS HAVE BEEN ASSUMED BY INCUMBENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION (NO. 129-013),

FORMERLY TITLED "CHAUFFEUR-MESSENGER.-

4. RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.7-4. A NEW DESCRIPTION OF THE DUTIES OF ADMINISTRATIVE/COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT POSITION (NO. 129-013) HAS BEEN PREPARED AND THE GRADE OF THE INCUMBENT ESTABLISHED.

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PAGE 01 CURACA 00285 02 OF 02 192344Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-03 ONY-00 /018 W
-----088014 192348Z /62

R 191740Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL CURACAO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3849

C O N F I D E N T I A L FINAL SECTION OF 2 CURACAO 0285/2
FOR ARA AND SIG ONLY

5. RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.7-5. FUNDS FOR REMODELING THE KITCHEN AT THE RESIDENCE HAVE BEEN APPROVED; WORK WILL COMMENCE SHORTLY.

6. RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.7-6. POST HAD REQUESTED R&R IN MAY 1977. ARA/MGT FORWARDED THIS REQUEST TO DIRGEN EARLIER THIS MONTH.

7. RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.7-7. MUCH EXCESS EXPENDABLE PROPERTY IN WAREHOUSE HAS ALREADY BEEN SOLD. PHYSICAL INVENTORY OF NON-EXPENDABLE PROPERTY AT POST WILL SHORTLY BE UNDERTAKEN. CERTAIN PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS MAKE OUR TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION JUNE 30.

8. RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.7-8. POST REQUESTED SECURITY SURVEY BY TELEGRAM TO RSO CARACAS ON APRIL 11, 1978.

9. RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.7-9. POST HAD REQUESTED RADIO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BEFORE INSPECTION. COMMUNICATIONS EXPERT ARRIVED SHORTLY THEREAFTER. RADIO EQUIPMENT IS NOW IN WORKING ORDER.

10. RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.7-10. GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE PRESENT BUILDING'S LAYOUT AND SOLID CONSTRUCTION, THE COSTS OF MATERIALS AND LABOR HERE, AND THE ESTHETIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ANY EXTERNAL CHANGES BECAUSE OF THE SKYLINE LOCATION OF THE SITE, ANY CONCEIVABLE ALTERATIONS OR IMPROVEMENTS, EVEN ONLY THE MOST

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 CURACA 00285 02 OF 02 192344Z

IMMEDIATELY NEEDED, WOULD BE VERY EXPENSIVE. NONE SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AT ALL UNLESS THE RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE THE POST IS REJECTED. IF THE POST IS TO REMAIN OPEN, THEN ANY IMPROVEMENTS OR ALTERATIONS FOR CONSULAR-OPERATION PURPOSES SHOULD ALSO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE BUILDING, IDEALLY LOCATED FOR A MISSION, MIGHT IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE BECOME ONE. SEE ALSO 77 CURACAO 0767.

11. RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.7-11. AS SUGGESTED EARLIER IN THIS MESSAGE, WE SHOULD NOT DISPOSE OF LOT ADJACENT TO CONSULATE GENERAL BEFORE DECISIONS ARE MADE ON EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF POST-INDEPENDENCE US REPRESENTATION IN NETHERLANDS ANTILLES. IT WOULD IN ANY CASE BE UNNECESSARY TO DISPOSE OF THE LOT BEFORE CLOSING POST. IF POST IS TO BE CLOSED, THE ADJACENT LOT SHOULD BE SOLD TOGETHER WITH THE GROUND ON WHICH THE PRESENT OFFICES AND RESIDENCE ARE LOCATED. THE VALUE OF THE TWO PROPERTIES TOGETHER WOULD BE GREATER THAN THE VALUE OF THE TWO SOLD SEPARATELY. (N.B. IN DISPOSING OF PROPERTY ON WHICH RESIDENCE AND OFFICES ARE LOCATED WE WILL WANT TO KEEP IN MIND FACT THAT PROPERTY WAS GIFT TO USG BY GON AFTER WW 11 IN GRATITUDE FOR US ROLE IN LIBERATION OF HOLLAND.)

12. RECOMMENDATION NO. 2.7-12. ON APRIL 7 POST ANNOUNCED INSTITUTION OF PERSONNEL EVALUATION SYSTEM FOR FSLES. POSITION DESCRIPTIONS ARE BEING UP-DATED. FIRST WRITTEN EVALUATION REPORTS WILL COVER PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30.
PENBERTHY

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